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22434	7590	10/19/2006		EXAMINER
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP			DURAN, ARTHUR D	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			3622	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/937,111	OSHIMA, ICHIRO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Arthur Duran	3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-25 have been examined.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. The Amendment filed on 8/17/06 is sufficient to overcome the prior rejection. A new reference has been added to the 35 USC 103 rejection.

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/17/06 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 8-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson (6,609,106) in view of Covington (2003/0154135) in view of Hsu (2006/0122926).

Claim 1, 11, 16, 17, 24: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system, method that implements gift mediation via a network through access to data storage means, which is provided on a server and stores predetermined data therein, said gift mediation system comprising: first memory means that stores registry of information on a recipient, who is expected to receive gift, together with individual information used for authentication on the network (Fig. 12; Fig. 15; Fig. 16); second memory means that stores a password used to authenticate a giver who desires to give the gift on the network (Fig. 15, item 260; Fig. 8; col 11, lines 54-58); permission means that identifies the individual information in response to a requirement for access via the network and gives authorization to access said data storage means via the network when identity with at least part of the individual information registered in said first memory means is verified (Fig. 20B; Fig. 20C); wish list registry means that registers a wish list including at least one item for the gift into said data storage means by the authorized access (Fig. 27, item 505); and wish list reference means that allows the wish list to be referred to by access via the network using the password stored in said second memory means (Fig. 21, item 350; Fig. 28).

Robertson further discloses wish list registry means that specifies a wish list including at least one item for the gift, based on information regarding items other than the predetermined data stored in said data storage means, after the access authorized by said first permission means, and registers information on the specified wish list in said data storage means (Fig. 33; item 575, item 570).

Additionally, Robertson discloses utilizing a password for identifying and logging on users (Fig. 15 and below):

“(7) Prior to using the Online Gift Registry Service, users and Service Providers, must register with the Online Registrar. This involves the following steps. 1. The user registers with the Gift Registrar by providing user information (name, address, phone number, etc.) and notice trigger events (holidays, special events, etc.) to the Registrar. The user additionally agrees to a contract, and establishes a personal password that is known only by the user and the Registrar” (col 9, lines 51-61).

Robertson discloses multiple memory means for storing user related information:

“(22) The Gift Registry site 70 includes one or more physical databases for storing various account information with respect to the users and Service providers. This information preferably includes the passwords and profiles” (col 12, lines 57-62).

Robertson discloses that gift purchasers can be registered users or that registered users can be gift purchasers:

“(13) Additionally, it may be assumed that the term "registrant" and the term "Service Provider" refers only to registered users and Service Providers respectively. The term "gift purchasers" may refer to registered users or non-registered users” (col 11, lines 50-57).

Therefore, any of the information that applies to registered users (such as passwords) can also apply to gift purchasers or gift givers.

Additionally, Fig. 32 and Fig. 33 and Fig. 14 (item 15, item 30, item 32, item 33) disclose that the gift giver can access a wish list of a gift receiver.

Robertson does not explicitly disclose wherein the password used to authenticate the giver is registered by a registrant of the wish list and transmitted to the giver, so as to allow secure access to the wish list by the giver without the giver's registration; the giver can access the wish list of the registrant by inputting the password.

However, Covington discloses that the password used to authenticate the giver is registered by a registrant of the wish list and transmitted to the giver, so as to allow secure access to the wish list by the giver without the giver's registration; the giver can access the wish list of the registrant by inputting the password:

“[0014] The user then selects an access mechanism for notifying buyers about each wish list. Access mechanisms include providing password protection, providing an access control list (ACL), providing a Share List, making a wish list Public, and/or making a wish list Private. The user can generate an e-mail notification that provides selected buyers with access information to one or more wish lists. The buyers can then access the system Web site where the appropriate list(s) may be displayed. From the Web site, the buyer may: (1) print out the list(s) and go to the physical store where the products are located to make a purchase, (2) purchase one or more of the products on-line and have them delivered, (3) purchase one or more of the products on-line and pick-up the products at a physical store, or (4) notify an in-store/in-mall concierge service to go to a physical store, buy the products on behalf of the buyer, and ship the products to the buyer or to the user.

[0185] Next, the user selects whether the wish list name will be Public or Private (block 1382). If the user selected Private (block 1384), then the user enters a password for the wish list name (block 1386). This password will be required by all buyers to gain access to the wish list

in the future. In block 1388, the user selects the Create button to create the wish list and save it to the central database 1400.

[0191] Referring to FIG. 40, a user can notify potential buyers of a wish list (block 1440). First, the user selects the Share List option (block 1442). The user then selects a particular wish list name, for example, from a pull-down menu (block 1444). The user can then type a personal e-mail message to the buyer (block 1446). Next, the user views the names in the personal address book (block 1448). The user selects who will receive the e-mail notification, for example, by placing checkmarks in boxes next to the corresponding names in the address book (block 1450). The user then has the option of entering e-mail addresses for buyers not listed in the address book (1452). Next, the user selects Share This List (block 1454). The system determines whether the user designated the wish list as Private in block 1455. If not, an e-mail notification is sent to the selected recipients alerting them of the wish list, for example, by displaying the user's message and providing a hyperlink to the wish list (block 1456). If the wish list is Private, an e-mail notification is sent to the selected recipients alerting them of the wish list, for example, by displaying the user's message and providing a hyperlink to the wish list that includes an embedded password for accessing the wish list (block 1458). In one embodiment, the e-mail also contains the password in written form for accessing the Private wish list in the future. When selected by the buyer, the hyperlink will navigate the buyer's Web browser directly to the system Web site.

[0192] In summary, users select an access mechanism, such as a Share List. However, any access mechanism that allows one or more buyers access to a wish list or unassigned list of products is within the scope of the claimed invention. The user can share one or more wish list

names with designated persons listed in the user's address book, or entered manually. Public wish lists allow access to any interested buyer. If, however, the user designates a wish list as Private, then password protection is provided. Persons on a Share List are notified of a specific wish list name via an e-mail notification that includes a hyperlink to the wish list. If the wish list is Private, the password may be embedded in the hyperlink so the user is able to view the wish list without having to manually enter the password. Thus, the system will either link the buyer to a Public wish list, request a password for a Private wish list, or automatically link the buyer to a Private wish list using an embedding password. In one embodiment, wish lists can be designated Strictly Private, wherein only the creator-user can access such wish lists.

[0193] Buyers visiting the system Web site have the option of viewing all Public wish lists, viewing any Private wish lists for which they have a password (or hyperlink with embedded password), viewing a user's personal preferences, printing a wish list, or selecting a shopping cart summary (containing a list of the items in the buyer's shopping cart). If a buyer wishes to view a wish list at a store/mall or on-line, the buyer does not need to register. Rather, the buyer can search for registered users and/or specific wish list names. In addition, the buyer can access a user's personal preferences in order to select items that a user may want, but that are not included on a wish list. In one embodiment, the buyer can only access the personal preferences associated with a Public wish list. Otherwise, a password is required to access to the personal preferences associated with a Private wish list.

[0194] To search for a registered user (e.g., to view his/her wish list and/or personal preferences), the buyer logs into the system Web site, selects the Search option, and enters search criteria, such as a first and last name, in the appropriate search fields. The system will

then display a list of user names, user locations (city, state), and wish list names that match the search criteria entered. The buyer can only access Public wish lists and Private wish lists for which the buyer has the required password. While viewing a wish list, the buyer can select Profile to view a user's personal preferences.”

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Covington's wish list with privacy options to Robertson's wish list with passwords for the giver and/or receiver. One would have been motivated to do this in order to allow the wish list to be shared with non-members but still maintain privacy of the wish list holder.

Robertson further discloses that said application means comprises payment application means that allows payment for a specific item displayed by said display means to be offered by the access using the password, said gift mediation system further comprising: total pay offer display means that displays a total of pay offer for the specific item (Fig. 36, Fig. 37), and the utilization of credit cards (Fig. 36).

Additionally, Robertson further discloses a gift registry where multiple gift giver users can access the registry for a single gift receiver (Abstract).

Robertson does not explicitly disclose partial payment by multiple users for a single product or item.

However, Hsu discloses partial payment by multiple users for a single product or item and with different invoices being sent to each of the multiple givers of the single product or item (Hsu, Abstract; Figures 3, 4; Paragraphs [9, 15, 55, 60, 94]; and throughout the Hsu disclosure).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Hsu's partial payment by multiple users for a single product or item to Robertson's multiple gift givers and gift registry. One would have been motivated to do this in order to allow purchases of items that are expensive and can be difficult for a single user to pay for.

Claim 2: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 1, and further discloses that said first memory means comprises means that stores registry of information on at least two recipients together with individual information on a single individual (col 1, lines 55-60; Fig 27; ).

Claim 3: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 1, and further discloses that said first memory means comprises: event registry means that registers a type of event for the gift (Fig. 40); and means that stores registry of information on a plurality of recipients together with individual information on a single individual when the type of event registered in said event registry means coincides with a preset event involving the plurality of recipients, such as engagement or wedding (Fig. 27; Fig. 40).

Claim 4: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 1, and further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprises: address registry means that registers an address of the giver who desires to give the gift (Fig. 16; col 11, lines 54-58 ); and notification means that notifies the address registered by said address registry means of the password and information on a procedure of gaining access to said data

storage means, on completion of the registry by said wish list registry means (Fig. 20C, item 330).

Claim 5: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 1, and further discloses that said wish list registry means comprises:

item information storage means that individually stores information on a plurality of items; item selection means that causes at least one item to be selected among the plurality of items stored in said item information storage means; and enumerative display means that displays the wish list of the at least one item selected by said item selection means in an enumerative manner (Fig. 33; Fig. 28).

Claim 6: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 5, and further discloses that said item information storage means comprises means that stores information on each item with its category in said item information storage means and displays the stored information on the plurality of items classified by the category for selection of the at least one item by said item selection means (Fig. 28).

Claim 8: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 1, and further discloses that said wish list registry means comprises:

item information acquisition means that obtains information on items from another data storage means, which is present on the network, together with information for identifying said another data storage means; and

enumerative display means that extracts at least information on a price of each item and the information for identifying said another data storage means among the information on the items

obtained by said item information acquisition means, and displays the extracted information in an enumerative manner (Fig. 24; Fig. 41, item 570, 575; Fig. 33; Fig. 34).

Claim 9, 26: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 5, 8, and further discloses that said enumerative display means comprises means that displays a 'Delete' button to instruct deletion of a specified item from the registered wish list (Fig. 27, item 515).

Claim 10: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claims 1, and further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprises:

display means that displays the wish list of the at least one item registered by said wish list registry means in an enumerative manner, in response to access using the password; application means that individually accepts an offer of payment for each item included in the displayed wish list; and offer record display means that displays an offer record of the item for which the payment has been offered (Fig. 33; Fig. 36; Fig. 37).

Claim 12: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 10, and further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprises:

payment demand means that requires a giver who has offered the payment to actually pay for the item for which the payment has been offered (Fig. 36).

Claim 13: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 10, and further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprises:

detailed information display means that displays the wish list of the at least one item registered by said wish list registry means in an enumerative manner, as well as

information for authenticating the giver who has offered the payment with regard to the item for which the payment has been offered, in response to the access via the network authorized by said permission means (Fig. 33; Fig. 36).

Claim 14: Robertson and Covington and Hsu disclose a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 10.

Robertson further discloses making purchases and the utilization of credit cards (Fig. 36, Fig. 37).

Robertson further discloses an event notification for a wide variety of events (col 3, lines 47-50).

Robertson further discloses due time memory means that stores a due time of access to said data storage means; due time detection means that detects elapse of the due time; and notification means that notifies a registrant who has registered the wish list of information on the item for which the payment has been offered, in response to the detection of the elapse of the due time (col 2, line 55-col 2, line 61).

Also, Hsu further discloses tracking due times and notifying of such ([184,185]).

Claim 15: Robertson and Covington and Hsu disclose a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 14. Robertson further discloses that said first memory means comprises means that stores registry of an address for delivery of the item for which the payment has been offered and a postal address of the recipient who is expected to receive the gift, as the information on the recipient (Fig. 36; Fig. 16; Fig. 17).

Claim 18, 25: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system, medium in accordance with claim 17. Robertson further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprises: second

permission means that gives authorization to access another data storage means, which is connected to said data storage means via the network, after the authorized access to said data storage means; and

item information acquisition means that obtains information on items stored in said another data storage means, different from said data storage means, in response to a specified instruction, wherein said wish list registry means specifies the wish list of the at least one item for the gift, based on the information obtained by said item information acquisition means, and registers the information on the specified wish list in said data storage means (Fig. 33; Fig. 34; col 3, lines 60-65).

Also, please see the rejection of the independent claims 1, 16, 17, 24 above for a similar analysis in regards to claim 25.

Claim 19: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 18, and further discloses that said item information acquisition means obtains information on description of respective items, such as product names and product numbers of the items, as well as information on an address, at which the information on the items is stored in said another data storage means (Fig. 33, item 560).

Claim 20: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 17, and further discloses that said data storage means stores in advance information on items as the predetermined data,

said item information acquisition means obtains both the information on the items stored in advance in said data storage means (col 2, lines 55-61; Fig. 1) and the information on the items stored in said another data storage means (col 2, lines 25-30; Fig. 1), and

said wish list registry means registers both the information obtained by said item information acquisition means on a common list in said data storage means (Fig. 1; Fig. 28; Fig. 33).

Claim 21: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 20, and further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprising: display means that displays the information registered on the common list in said data storage means in an enumerative manner (Fig. 28; Fig. 33).

Claim 22: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 18, and further discloses that said gift mediation system further comprises: settlement means that settles an account of each item included in the wish list, whose information is registered by said wish list registry means, between said server managing said data storage means and another server managing said another data storage means via the network (col 25, lines 10-15; col 15, lines 30-43).

Claim 23: Robertson discloses a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 17, and further discloses that a terminal that gains access to said data storage means via the network is installed at a shop of a retailer who sells items, and said wish list registry means specifies the wish list of the at least one item for the gift, based on information on items checked at the shop by the recipient who is expected to receive the gift, after access authorized by said terminal, and registers information on the specified wish list in said data storage means (col 25, lines 15-20).

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson (6,609,106) in view of Covington (2003/0154135) in view of Hsu (2006/0122926) in view of Call (6,154,738).

Claim 7: Robertson and Covington and Hsu disclose a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 5. Robertson further discloses that said item information storage means stores at least information on a price of each item and a photographic image representing appearance of each item, and said enumerative display means displays the photographic image of the appearance of each item (Fig. 28; Fig. 38).

Robertson further discloses expanding information and that the user can access more information on an item (col 22, lines 47-57).

Robertson does not explicitly disclose that the image can be magnified.

However, Call discloses that product images can be magnified (col 23, lines 34-50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Call's product image magnification to Robertson's product image. One would have been motivated to do this in order to allow the user to see more detail on the item.

6. Claim 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson (6,609,106) in view of Covington (2003/0154135) in view of Hsu (2006/0122926) in view of Loeb (6,006,205).

Claim 14: Robertson and Covington and Hsu disclose a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 10.

Robertson further discloses making purchases and the utilization of credit cards (Fig. 36, Fig. 37).

Robertson further discloses an event notification for a wide variety of events (col 3, lines 47-50).

Robertson does not explicitly disclose due time memory means that stores a due time of access to said data storage means; due time detection means that detects elapse of the due time; and notification means that notifies a registrant who has registered the wish list of information on the item for which the payment has been offered, in response to the detection of the elapse of the due time.

However, Loeb discloses due time memory means that stores a due time of access to said data storage means; due time detection means that detects elapse of the due time; and notification means that notifies a registrant who has registered the wish list of information on the item for which the payment has been offered, in response to the detection of the elapse of the due time (col 6, lines 30-44; Fig. 3; col 10, lines 9-20; Fig. 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Loeb's tracking of payments and time to Robertson's credit card payment and event notification. One would have been motivated to do this in order to allow Robertson to better ensure that payments for items are made.

Claim 15: Robertson and Covington and Hsu and Loeb disclose a gift mediation system in accordance with claim 14. Robertson further discloses that said first memory means comprises means that stores registry of an address for delivery of the item for which the payment

has been offered and a postal address of the recipient who is expected to receive the gift, as the information on the recipient (Fig. 36; Fig. 16; Fig. 17).

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in grounds of the new rejection above.

In regards to the features added to the claims on 8/17/2006, Hsu (2006/0122926) discloses partial payment by multiple users for a single product or item and with different invoices being sent to each of the multiple givers of the single product or item (Hsu, Abstract; Figures 3, 4; Paragraphs [9, 15, 55, 60, 94]; and throughout the Hsu disclosure).

Please see the addition of the Hsu reference to the 35 USC 103 rejection of the independent claims above.

Examiner notes that while specific references were made to the prior art, it is actually also the prior art in its entirety and the combination of the prior art in its entirety that is being referred to. Also, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Examiner further notes that it is the Applicant's claims as stated in the Applicant's claims that are being rejected with the prior art. Also, although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). And, Examiner notes that claims are

given their broadest reasonable construction. See *In re Hyatt*, 211 F.3d 1367, 54 USPQ2d 1664 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

### ***Conclusion***

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

a) Swartz (2002/0050526 ) discloses a password protected webpage for a user's gift list:

“[0133] In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the central host also provides for the uploading of customer shopping lists. Thus, a customer may generate a shopping list and Email the list to a predetermined secure (i.e., password protected) Email address. The customer's Email address would be predetermined and automatically associated with a customer's file at the shopping facility. When the customer is assigned a portable terminal, the portable terminal's initial prompt will also include a message link indicating that a message has been received for the customer. The selection of the link would cause the Email message to display on the portable terminal.

[0134] In a further embodiment of the present invention, the central host delivers to the customer via an Email address on a customer's PC 45 (FIG. 1) a list of previously purchased items, or in the alternative, the central host makes available on a customer accessible but password protected web page the customer's prior purchase records and a complete listing of available items at the store. As described in FIG. 10, the customer may then select items for inclusion on a customer specific shopping list by checking specific items which are to be purchased and the quantity required for purchase. By using the item selection method, i.e.,

selecting from a store's list of available goods, the list may be used to prompt customers on their next visit to the store the exact location and price of the selected items on the list by ensuring that the notation used by a customer for items selected for purchase will match the product identifiers used by the central host. The above described shopping list system also permits for home delivery of items because of the assurance of a match between items selected by a customer and items including brand, quantity and price available at the facility.

[0143] The attendant could also be provided with a "bag" link on the portable terminal. Each bag may be provided with a unique coded identifier. Once the attendant begins using the bag for a particular customer's products, the attendant can scan the bag code with the portable terminal using the "plus" key. The bag may be scanned prior to or after the items are inserted into the bag by the attendant. The portable terminal will identify this as a bag containing customer products and automatically associate the bag to the customer. The identification of the bag and contents is stored on the system and may be forwarded to a customer via E-mail or made available with a password protected web page. In a preferred embodiment, these "bags" could be reusable totes electronically matched to a customer identification code, and upon each delivery to the home, totes from the last delivery are retrieved and returned to the store";

b) Rice (20020174010) discloses password protected webpages or content on the Internet and gift registries.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur Duran whose telephone number is (571) 272-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri, 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Arthur Duran  
Primary Examiner  
9/1/06